(b) if so, whether the proposal has been considered by the Government;

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government in the matter; and

(d) if not, the time by which the proposal is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal of Government of Andhra Pradesh for financial assistance under Centrally Sponsored Schemes for construction of godowns for PDS under Revamped Public Distribution System areas was considered in the Standing Finance Committee in its meeting held on 11th October, 1996.

(c) The Committee has approved financial assistance to Andhra Pradesh Pradesh to the tune of Rs. 124.20 lakhs for construction of 16 godowns with a capacity of 5000 MTs. Sanction for release of funds have already been issued vide letter No. 21/43/95-PD. I dated 24th October, 1996.

(d) Does not arise.

Sales of Super Bazar

646. SHRI RAMSAGAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the annual sales of the Super Bazar during each of the last three years including 1996, so far;

(b) the year upto which the accounts of the Super Bazar have been audited;

(c) the details of the shortcomings/irregularities noticed in their accounts by the auditors; and

(d) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) According to the information furnished by Super Bazar, their annual sales during the last three years are as follows :

1993-94	Rs. 115.20 crores
1994-95	Rs. 130.15 crores
1995-96	Rs. 136.54 crores
1996-97	Rs. 63.00 crores (upto April-Sept., 96)

(b) Accounts of Super Bazar have been audited upto 1995-96.

(c) According to the information furnished by Super Bazar, major shortcomings/irregularities pointed out by their auditors are as follows :

(i) Stock shortage

(ii) Suggestion about item-wise control instead of value control of stock. (iii) old ouTstanding dues in Sundry Debtors. (iv) not getting approval about the credit limit from Registrar. (v) maintenance of records in repect of fixed assets. (vi) disowning of liabilities of Rs. 11.78 lakhs by the concerned party from the Patel Nagar branch against purchase of goods.

(vii) Bank reconciliation.

(d) Management of Super Bazar has reported that appropriate action has been taken in respect of all the items.

[Translation]

Rice Growing Areas in Gujarat

647. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of rice producing areas in Gujarat particularly in the tribal and backward areas of the State;

(b) whether any Rice Research Centre has been set up or proposed to be set up by the Government in the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Rice producing areas in Gujarat are covered in the districts of Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Bharuch, Valsad, Dangs, Gandhinagar, Kheda, Mehsana, Panch Mahals, Sabarkantha, Surat, Junagadh and Surendranagar, out of which Punchmahals, Valsad, Surat, Vadodara, Bharuch and Sabarkantha are particularly in tribal and backward areas of the state.

(b) and (c). There is one rice research centre located at Nawagaon under Gujarat Agricultural University. The Centre has an annual plan budget of Rs. 7 lakh for 96-97 and VIIIth plan budget of Rs. 28.76 lakh.

[English]

Investigation for Gold Plating Urea Plants

648. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been invited to the news item captioned "Urea plants under investigation for gold planting" appearing in the Financial Express, New Delhi dated 14th October, 1996;

(b) the reaction of the Government thereto; and